

Weekly Column for May 26, 2005

The unofficial beginning of summer arrives this weekend with what I understand will be the nicest weather we've had in about two weeks. Not that that's saying much.

It would be easy to sit here and talk about light hearted things happening around the City this upcoming summer (which you can be sure I will do in the coming weeks), but I would instead like to take a minute just to reflect upon the true meaning of Memorial Day. Yes, it's time to look past the camping and the cookouts, if only for a few moments.

Memorial Day was originally established as a holiday for us to remember and honor those who have died while serving the United States. And while the Veteran's groups out there certainly do their best on a yearly basis to promote all many causes, often people overlook the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Certainly much of that can be traced to the fact that it takes place so close to the end of the school year, that people have begun to celebrate it as the unofficial beginning to everyone's favorite season.

There's nothing wrong with that obviously, but it would be wonderful if everyone took some time this weekend to remember all of those people who have died in the line of duty. Without tremendous sacrifices, this country, and many other places, would not be the way they are today.

If you would like to learn a little more about the holiday, and its beginnings, there is a great website at www.usmemorialday.org that is loaded with information.

Locally, the Veterans of Lansingburgh will be holding its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, and we invite everyone to come down and enjoy what will hopefully be a nice day.

If you can't make it down to the parade, enjoy the extended weekend, and have a safe and happy holiday.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy